



Permanent Mission of Italy  
UN - Geneva

**52<sup>nd</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**  
**Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Syria**  
*21 March 2023*

**Statement delivered by Ambassador Vincenzo Grassi,  
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in Geneva**

*Mister President,*

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

At the outset let me express our solidarity with the Syrian people affected by the recent earthquakes and we hope these tragic events will lead to a sustained humanitarian truce. As the UN Special Envoy Pedersen said, earthquakes can be a turning point and the logic of positive steps adopted in the emergency could hopefully be applied to the political front as well.

As widely documented, after twelve years of conflict people in all parts of Syria keep suffering unspeakable systematic human rights violations on a massive scale. Civilians and civilian objects are constantly targeted, in blatant breach of International Humanitarian Law norms.

Arbitrary detention, torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, and enforced disappearances are still widely perpetrated. Sexual and gender-based violence continue unabated in Syria. Right to education is impeded for hundreds of thousands of children. We urge all parties to immediately end these violations.

Italy fully supports the call for a new humanitarian mechanism for clarifying the fate and whereabouts of missing persons, and we call on all parties involved to cooperate with it once established.

Fighting impunity is key to foster national reconciliation. All perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity should be held accountable. Italy will continue supporting the work of the CoI and the IIIM, which is essential to ensure that crimes committed in Syria do not go unpunished.

*I thank you*